

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3233
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UNCLAS VANCOUVER 1339

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, SENV, CA, US
SUBJECT: SENATOR JACKSON MEETING WITH B.C. PREMIER BENNETT

1. ACCORDING TO REPORT CARRIED IN THE PROVINCE OF DECEMBER 21, SENATOR JACKSON MET FOR TWO HOURS WITH PREMIER BENNETT IN VICTORIA ON DECEMBER 20. FOLLOWING WHICH JACKSON HELD A NEWS CONFERENCE AT WHICH HE SAID THAT "WE HAVE ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE ESPECIALLY, SOME REAL AND SERIOUS PROBLESM THAT NEED TO BE RESOLVED.... BUT IT THINK WE ARE ENTERING A NEW ERA OF OPPORTUNITY BETWEEN CANADA AND THE U.S. AND BETWEEN B.C. AND MY STATE OF WASHINGTON". REFERRING TO A RECENT MEETING IN PLAINS, JACKSON IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE FOUND THAT PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER AND MONDALE "WILL BE TAKING A NEW INTEREST IN OUR CONCERNS" ON U.S. -CANADA RELATIOS.

2. PROVINCE FURTHER REPORTS THAT JACKSON AND BENNETT INDICATED AT PRESS CONFERENCE THAT TWO SUBJECTS WERE SPECIFICALLY DISCUSSED AT MEETING. PRICING OF B.C. NATURAL GAS EXPORTS AND OIL TANKER TRAFFIC IN PUGET SOUND. WHILE NO DECISIONS WERE APPARENTLY REACHED ON EITHER SUBJECT, NEWS STORY STATES THEY AGREED THAT BENNETT UNDERSTANDS PROBLEMS THAT HIGHER B.C. GAS PRICES WILL CAUSE WASHINGTON INDUSTRY AND THAT JACKSON UNDERSTANDS DESIRE
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OF B.C. TO RECEIVE FULL MARKET PRICE FOR ITS EXPORTS.

3. JACKSON ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID HE SEES NO RPT NO ALTERNATIVE TO OIL TANKERS FOR SUPPLY OF REFINERIES AT CHERRY POINT, FERNDAL, BELLINGHAM AND ANACORTES AT LEAST FOR NEXT FEW YEARS UNTIL A PIPELINE CAN BE BUILT. HE WAS SURE U.S.

AND CANADA CAN WORK OUT MUTUAL STRICT SAFETY STANDARDS TO
MINIMIZE OIL SPILL RISKS, ALTHOUGH EVEN STRICTEST STANDARDS
CANNOT GUARANTEE NO SPILL WILL OCCUR.
LUPPI

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